

1. AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 6, line 21,

Even more preferably the compound has a receptor affinity $IC_{50} < 25 \mu M$, and an antagonist potency ~~$IC_{50} < 1 \mu M$~~ $IC_{50} < 1 \mu M$.

At page 10, lines ¹⁶~~19~~-20,

An "uncommon" amino acid includes, but is not restricted to, D-amino acids, homo-amino acids, N-alkyl amino acids, dehydroamino acids, aromatic amino acids other than phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan, ortho-, meta- or para-aminobenzoic acid, ornithine, citrulline, canavanine, norleucine, ~~γ-glutamic~~ γ-glutamic acid, aminobutyric acid, L-fluorenylalanine, L-3-benzothierylalanine, and ~~α, α-disubstituted~~ α, α-disubstituted amino acids.

beginning on line 1 through
At page 22, line 2,

The level of colon oedema, neutrophil accumulation and colon ~~[[TNF-α]]~~ TNF-α levels were also significantly reduced.

Beginning on page 34 through
At page 24, line 1,

The cyclic compounds described in this specification are stable to proteolytic degradation for at least several hours at ~~[[37°C]]~~ 37°C in human blood or plasma, in human or rat gastric juices, or in the presence of digestive enzymes such as pepsin, trypsin and chymotrypsin.